



EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY

MEMBER
MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER
2021

EDISON and FORD winter ESTATES

2350 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33901
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edisonford.org

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To become a member of Edison Ford,
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SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER

A new season is just around the corner. Each year, Edison Ford hosts many public events including concerts, plant sales, car shows, exhibit openings, and of course the popular Holiday Nights light show. This year's Rhythm on the River concert series kicks off on October 29, with a national bluegrass band. The Appalachian Road Show hales from Tennessee and is sure to get the crowd out of their seats! This event will sell out quickly, so get your tickets soon.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for many of these events. To learn more about how you can sponsor an event or education program, contact the Development Office at 239-335-3678

What we're doing to keep you safe:

Following CDC guidelines, masks are **recommended** on guided tours, when indoors or when 6' social distancing cannot be achieved.

- Sanitizer stations are placed throughout the site.
- Counters and door handles are being disinfected daily.
- Plastic shields are installed at the ticket counter.
- Masks are available in the Museum Store.

As always, members get in free. We hope to see you soon!



GENERAL HOURS

Open Daily
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ADMISSION

Guided Tour:

Edison Ford Members: \$5

Adults: \$30

Teens: (ages 13-19) \$25

Children: (ages 6-12) \$18

Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

Self-Guided Tour:

Edison Ford Members: FREE

Adults: \$25

Teens: (ages 13-19) \$20

Children: (ages 6-12) \$15

Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

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On the cover: The sun setting over the Caloosahatchee River.
Photo by Edison Ford member, Coach Ted Dickey.

2021-2022 VIP TOUR SEASON

Welcome VIPs! If you have travelled with us before, you know how great our VIP tours are. If you haven't experienced a VIP tour yet, consider joining us this year. Touring with us is fun, educational, and a great way to meet new people. We are excited to offer new destinations this year and we hope you will join us for another fun-filled season. We will be offering the Everglades Tour again because it sold out last time and many of you asked us to bring it back. Other tours will include historical homes, museums, botanical gardens, and a holiday-themed tour at the Florida Botanical Gardens for the evening light display – get out those ugly Christmas sweaters!

All tours are subject to change and are based on availability. Spaces are limited. Pre-paid, advanced registration is required. Join the Membership program and take advantage of the discounted price.

Tour Cost for members is \$135, non-members \$150.



Fruit & Spice Park, Cauley Square Historic Village and Coral Castle

OCTOBER 16

Our first tour of the season is to the Redlands in Homestead, known as the agricultural area of South Florida. The first destination is the Fruit & Spice Park. This 37-acre subtropical paradise, with more than 500 hundred varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs, nuts and other plants is nestled in the heart of the historic Redlands area. It is the jewel of the agricultural community, and was started by a woman with a vision named Mary Calkins Heinlein. It is the only public garden of its kind in the U.S. A knowledgeable docent will lead us on a private tram tour of the property. Next, we will visit Cauley Square Historic Village. Refreshments will be provided as we stroll through the shaded garden paths to learn about the history of the Flagler Railroad and the agricultural community of the early 1900s. We will have a private lunch (included) at the Chalet. Our final stop will be to the famous Coral Castle. This oolite limestone structure was created by the Latvian-American eccentric Edward Leedskalnin or "Ed." We will learn how Ed, who barely weighed 100 pounds, single-handedly and secretly carved 3 million pounds of coral rock into his castle! Join us and learn more about the mystery. This tour is limited to 40 participants.



For questions or to make a reservation for this or any tour, please contact Sherri Muske at 239-335-3677 or smuske@edisonford.org. Tours fill up quickly, so reserve your space early.

TRAVELLING TOURS FOR THE 2021-22 SEASON

NOVEMBER 13, 2021

NAPLES

Naples Botanical Gardens, lunch and shopping at Tin City with a 2-hour narrated sightseeing and Eco Boat Tour from Tin City marina and Pure Florida.

DECEMBER 11, 2021

LARGO

Historic Heritage Village, early dinner on the waterfront and tour of the **Florida Botanical Gardens** holiday lights.

JANUARY 15, 2022

EVERGLADES CITY

Historic Everglades Museum and walking tour, lunch at a local establishment, Smallwood Museum and airboat ride through the Everglades.

FEBRUARY 19, 2022

SARASOTA

Private tour of the **Ringling Art Museum**, Ca' d' Zan, lunch at the Ringling Grillroom and tour the circus museum.

MARCH 12, 2022

SAINT PETERSBURG

Dali Museum, lunch, glass blowing demonstration at the Morean Art Center and Chihuly Museum tour.



Cancellation Policy – Cancellations must be made 14 days prior to the tour date to receive a full refund, unless the vacancy can be filled. Cancellations made by Edison and Ford due to unforeseen circumstances will warrant a full refund or credit for another tour in the same season.

WILL THE REAL JASMINE, PLEASE STAND UP?

By Karen Maxwell, Horticultural Specialist

If ever this old punch line fit a group of plants, certainly it is the case for jasmines. There are at least 13 so-named jasmines happily growing here in the gardens at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Throughout the seasons, visitors may catch the scent of the Night Blooming Jasmine (*Cestrum nocturnum*), Confederate Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), Madagascar Jasmine (*Stephanotis floribunda*), or Water Jasmine (*Wrightia religiosa*). Yet not one of these fragrant beauties are botanically considered a true jasmine and are collectively known as false jasmines which is in no way meant to disparage their botanical values.

Confused? You are in good company. Try this little game: Conduct a simple search on your computer for “jasmine oil benefits” and click on images so you can see what is being sold. This is probably the picture that will appear

on the products offered. Note there are four petals and a number of yellow stamens (those little plant parts that hold the flower’s pollen). A lovely flower, but it is not jasmine, and I have no idea how it has become misused so often to represent the heaven-scented jasmine. This four-petaled flower is from a Mock Orange shrub (*Philadelphus*) that I grow in my Maine cottage garden, and is in the Hydrangea family of plants. While we may not solve this mystery, by the end of this article, our readers will no longer be misled.

The word jasmine, (of Persian origin “Yasmin”) means fragrant flower, and yet not all jasmines are fragrant, and thus not a defining characteristic of a true jasmine. In botanical nomenclature, true jasmines all begin with *Jasminum* to identify their genus and the species share certain characteristics that distinguish this genus from some of the imposters that we identified in the first paragraph. Genus, in plants, means a related group of plants that have a similar set of attributes and can be inter-bred to create many species, or types, of plants within that genus. Most of the time, it is the construction of the flowers, as in the number of male and female parts of the flower, that guide scientists to assign a plant to a specific genus. And that, dear gardener, is how we know the difference between the Mock Orange and Jasmine flowers!

To be considered as a true jasmine, the jasmine flower never shows its stamens. True jasmines have only two stamens and they are always concealed (as in this Star Jasmine* (*J. laurifolium*) deep in the tubular corolla (or little crown) which is another name for the collection of flower petals and additionally, common to all plants found in the Olive Family, including true jasmines, lilacs, florida privet, forsythia, pop ash, etc. They not only have just the two stamens, their leaves always grow opposite each other on the stem as pictured here. However, perhaps one of the

Mock Orange *Philadelphus*





Star Jasmine (*J. laurifolium*)

most important distinctions of a true jasmine, is that no part of these plants are poisonous or toxic to humans or pets, which cannot be said for the false jasmynes.

True jasmynes have been prized since ancient times and were an important trade commodity along the Silk Road, valued for many ascribed benefits as a tonic, an antiseptic, tea flavoring, or an aphrodisiac and more recently in aromatherapy. The sweet smell and beautiful flowers have led to international labels such as Italian Jasmine, Madagascar Jasmine, Spanish Jasmine, Arabian Jasmine and the romantic Poet's Jasmine (*Jasminum officinale*), which is native to the Himalayas.

Jasminums can be either a vine or a shrub, they are generally white flowered, with a few exceptions such as the Italian Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum**) which is a winter-blooming, yellow jasmine originating from China. If left to grow as a cascading vine, this deciduous species will present a shower of small golden, though non-fragrant flowers before leafing out. In addition to being low maintenance plants, except for occasional pruning, true jasmynes are great if wanting to avoid toxicity to children or pets and they are attractive to hummingbirds.

Known as the king of the perfume industry (with rose oil as the queen) true jasmine oil is commercially extracted from two jasmine species that we grow in the Moonlight Garden. True jasmine oil is a blend of the night-blooming Arabian Jasmine (*J. sambac**) and the day-blooming Spanish

SAVE THE DATE

Orchid Sale & Symposium

OCTOBER 9-10

Jasmine (*J. grandiflorum**). Jasmine oil is known to blend well with all the other oils used in the perfume industry and pairs especially well with the ylang ylang* oil in one of the most famous perfumes – Chanel No. 5. It is said that it takes 8,000 flowers to make just 1 ml of pure jasmine oil. The Arabian Jasmine flowers are harvested from May to June and picked at night when the oils are at their peak. The Spanish jasmine flowers are harvested from August through November and picked at dawn.

Both of these jasmynes will grow well in the South Florida garden: the Arabian Sambac, is a fast growing shrub with rich dark green leaves that take well to pruning any time of year, and especially after flowering to keep its size in check. It is not fussy about soils, provided they are well drained, and perhaps receive a little less water in the winter. Feed the shrub four times a year, but do allow it a few years to become established for best flowering. Jasmine Sambac, or "Grand Duke of Tuscany" is a highly desirable plant that produces the largest of the jasmine flowers and is prized for a double flower, which looks more like a camellia. Native to India, these flowers are considered sacred to Vishnu in the Hindu religion.

The Spanish Jasmine (*Jasminum grandiflora**) a summer bloomer and by contrast, a very slow growing vine, with sparse leaves, but beautiful, scented flowers used also for tea and leis and similar to Italian Jasmine (*J. nudiflorum**), can be spectacular when allowed to tumble over a fence.

Most true jasmynes make excellent container-grown plants provided they have heat, humidity and well-drained soils with regular feedings of a balanced plant food. For the most part, true jasmynes are pest free, but should your potted plant develop spiders or aphids, apply diatomaceous earth for the spiders or wash the plant with Neem oil for the aphids.

continued on next page ➤

For a natural looking, easy-care hedge, Downy Jasmine (*Jasminum multiflorum* or *pubescens**) is an excellent choice in our area – it can handle hard pruning, produces lots of white flowers, loves wet soils and can tolerate droughts for a short period of time. This is a great jasmine to fill in a large sunny space as it is a very fast grower and gets its name from the soft hairs that give it a lighter green color. Often confused with Star Jasmine (*J. laurifolium* pictured above) this is another true jasmine that is fragrance free and has filled a back corner of the Moonlight Garden.

The next time you see a true jasmine, remember its significance. May all your wishes come true.

**Indicates plants in the gardens at Edison and Ford Winter Estates.*



Downy Jasmine (*J. pubescens*)



GARDEN TALK: SUCCULENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 • 10 A.M.

It seems the horticulture department teaches about cacti and succulents every year, and for good reason – succulents and cacti rock! Literally, they are the rock stars in the Garden Shoppe right now. They are so versatile; there is something for everyone who loves to have green plants around. Yes, some of them have spines, but I will show you how to deal with these issues of repotting and weeding around them. Succulents grow beautifully in the ground and in pots. While they are easy-care, there are some tricks and tips to help get the best out of these botanicals. They will stand out in the garden for sure and you will be so happy to have them around. Come to the talk and learn all about these amazing plants!

Participants will receive a 20% off coupon for use toward plants in the Garden Shoppe. After registering, participants should meet behind the Banyan tree in the old café area.

Cost: members \$10, non-members \$15.
Advance registration not required.



RHYTHM ON THE RIVER

APPALACHIAN ROAD SHOW

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29 • 6-8 P.M.

Get ready for the first ever bluegrass performance at Edison Ford! This acoustic ensemble performs bluegrass and folk music, as well as original songs for an entertaining show! The event will take place on the Ford lawn, along the Caloosahatchee River.

Band members include Grammy-nominated banjoist Barry Abernathy, Grammy-winning fiddler Jim VanCleve, vocalist and mandolinist Darrell Webb, Grammy-winning bassist Todd Phillips, and guitarist Zeb Snyder. Abernathy, VanCleve, and Webb were each born and raised in Appalachia. Abernathy sang in his church as a young boy, VanCleve has played the fiddle since he was six years old, and Webb grew up with the influence of bluegrass music from his father.



The group's music tells stories from the mountains and valleys of North Carolina and Virginia and the coal mines of West Virginia and Kentucky. Those stories include topics of logging, coal mining, trains, and lost love in their hit songs such as the gospel-esque "I Am Just a Pilgrim" and "Little Black Train," the kick-up-your-heels "Dance, Dance, Dance," and the ballad of love and loss in "Anna Lee." The performance is more than just a concert and includes telling the stories behind the songs.

The band's first album had three number-one songs on the Bluegrass Today Weekly Airplay charts. Then, in 2019, the band was nominated for the New Artist of the Year and Song of the Year ("Dance Dance Dance") at the International Bluegrass Music Association Awards.

Food and beverage vendors will have refreshments available for purchase. No coolers permitted.

Free parking is available in the main Edison Ford parking lot at 2350 McGregor Boulevard.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the concert starts at 6 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at [EdisonFord.org](https://edisonford.org) or at the ticket counter.

Individual tickets purchased in advance are \$30 for Edison Ford members or \$35 for non-members; tickets at the door will be \$40. Individual ticket holders should bring a lawn chair.

A new VIP seating area will be open and may be reserved by the table for \$225. Each table holds up to 5 people; table ticket price includes the use of a table and chairs.



HARVEY FIRESTONE

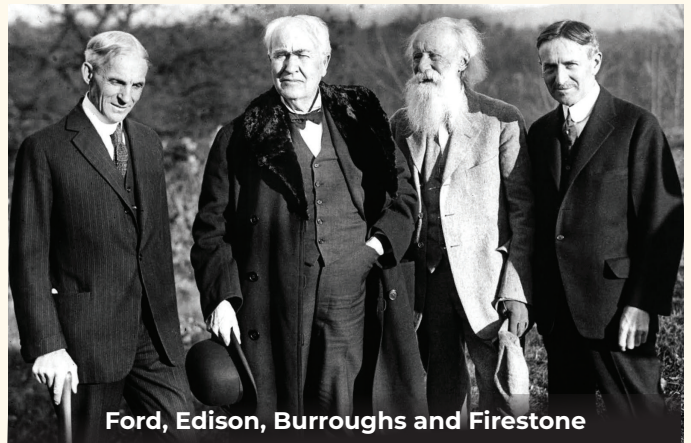
By Alexandria Edwards

Like Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone grew up on a farm and learned the importance of hard work from a very young age. He was born in Fairfield Township, Ohio and after completing high school, moved to Detroit and became the district manager of his uncle's buggy company. He was one of the first tire manufacturers to test drive carriages with rubber tires throughout the city.

In 1897, Firestone sold Henry Ford a set of four tires, which led to Firestone becoming the main tire supplier for Ford's vehicles. Shortly after meeting Ford, Firestone left his uncle's company and moved to Chicago. After the move, Firestone formed his first tire company. In 1900 – just two years later – he sold his stake in the company and used the proceeds to launch The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio. The company began with 12 employees and by 1903 was producing its own tires. Around this same time, Henry Ford began shifting his focus toward developing the Model T. In 1905, the Ford Company purchased 2,000 sets of Firestone tires for Ford Model T cars, pushing the Firestone Company sales past the \$1 million mark. At that time, it was the largest order of tires in history.

One of the company's major innovations was the introduction of the first all-rubber, non-skid tire in 1908. A year later, they were used on race cars. Famous racer, Barney Oldfield, won a 300-mile Indianapolis Sweepstakes race in a car with Firestone tires. A few years later, the Firestone brand was associated with the Indy 500. With the success of racing vehicles using Firestone tires, the phrase “win on Sunday, sell on Monday,” became popular and referred to a spike in sales the day after a Sunday race.

Ford later introduced Firestone to Thomas Edison and over a period of 10 years, the three men embarked on many camping trips together. One of the topics that Ford,



Ford, Edison, Burroughs and Firestone

Firestone and Edison discussed on these trips was the rubber shortage in the United States. At the time, the United States was consuming 70 percent of the world's rubber supply; although, none of it was produced in the U.S. During their trips, the men inspected plant life and drove around in Model Ts while collecting plant specimens.

The rapidly increasing price of rubber was especially important to Ford and Firestone, and they attempted to establish international rubber-growing locations. Firestone began planting rubber trees in Liberia, and Ford formed a plantation in Brazil; however, that proved to be unsuccessful. In 1919, Firestone mentioned the topic to Edison when they were sitting around a campfire. It was pretty evident why Ford and Firestone were interested in rubber; however, one of Edison's most profitable products, the storage battery, required rubber as well (the interior components of the battery incorporated rubber plates).

In 1927, after the men had done extensive research on a plethora of plants, they each contributed \$25,000 to form the Edison Botanic Research Corporation, dedicated to testing plants for latex content. The following year, Henry Ford financed the construction of a fully equipped lab to extract latex from plants. The trio tested more than 17,000 different plant species and selected Goldenrod as their plant of choice. This plant could be harvested within a year and grew in 48 different states, which made it favorable for this purpose. In total, the new corporation employed 80 staff members.

Today, visitors can learn more about the friendship between these iconic men during a tour. The entire site is open seven days a week, with guided and self-guided tours offered between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Firestone, Edison and Ford

DIGITAL DISCUSSION:

The Battle of Fort Myers

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 • 10:30 a.m.

During the last months of the American Civil War, the Battle of Fort Myers was fought. This skirmish is known as the “southernmost land battle of the Civil War.” Join Program Manager Holly Shaffer for the story of the people at the “Fort” in Fort Myers.



This is a free Digital Discussion.
Visit EdisonFord.org to register.

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PRESENTS

SUSTAINABLE
CONCEPTIONS

AN EXHIBIT FROM

JANUARY 14 to MAY 29, 2022

ARTISTS ARE INVITED
TO SUBMIT 2-D AND 3-D
WORKS OF ART
Deadline for submission
is November 7, 2021

CALL TO
ARTISTS!

Did you know, Henry Ford repurposed wooden crates used to transport material as floorboards for his automobiles? Or that Thomas Edison purified chemical solvents to be reused while working on his rubber project in his Fort Myers Laboratory? While the Green Movement was not popular during their lifetimes, Edison and Ford both recognized the importance of recycling and reusing materials.

This year we would like to showcase art inspired by Edison and Ford's efforts to reuse products and their abilities to work towards a sustainable future.

For Information or to apply,
Please Contact Tayelor Kakes at
tkakes@edisonford.org

TOURS & PROGRAMS

Historian-led guided tours and self-guided tours of the site are offered daily. Through the new app, narration is available in English, French, German, and Spanish.

Automotive Tour

MONDAYS • 10:30 A.M.

Join Automotive Curator James Moss, for a new perspective on the evolution of the automobile. Learn about production and how to operate a vehicle. From the Model T to the Model A, gasoline to electric, the Ford Motor Company and beyond, the Automotive Tour promises to offer a new way to connect with one of our most popular collections. Reservations are not required for this tour.

Cost: Edison Ford Members: \$15; non-members: Adults \$40, Teens (13-19) \$30, Children (6-12) \$16.

Inside-the-Homes Tours

TUESDAYS • 10:00 A.M. (first come, first served)

THURSDAYS • 10:00 A.M. (pre-registration required)

This tour is a unique opportunity to take a sneak peek inside normally-closed areas of Thomas Edison's "Seminole Lodge" and Henry Ford's "The Mangoes." Approximate tour time is 90 minutes to two hours. (Allow additional time to view the museum, laboratory, and gardens.)

Limited reservations available for this tour, pre-registration required by calling **239-335-3674**. Tours on Tuesdays offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cost: Edison Ford members: free (one time); non-members: Adults \$50, Teens (13-19) \$35, Children (6-12) \$20.





PRIVATE GUIDED TOURS

Available By Reservation

To accommodate families or small business groups, private guided tours are now available. These tours are for small groups of nine people or less and ensure that families will not be on a tour with other tourists. Two tour focus options are available, including the Historian-led Private Guided Tour, or the Private Garden Tour with a Horticulturist. Masks are required on guided tours. Private tours should be reserved at least 48 hours in advance.

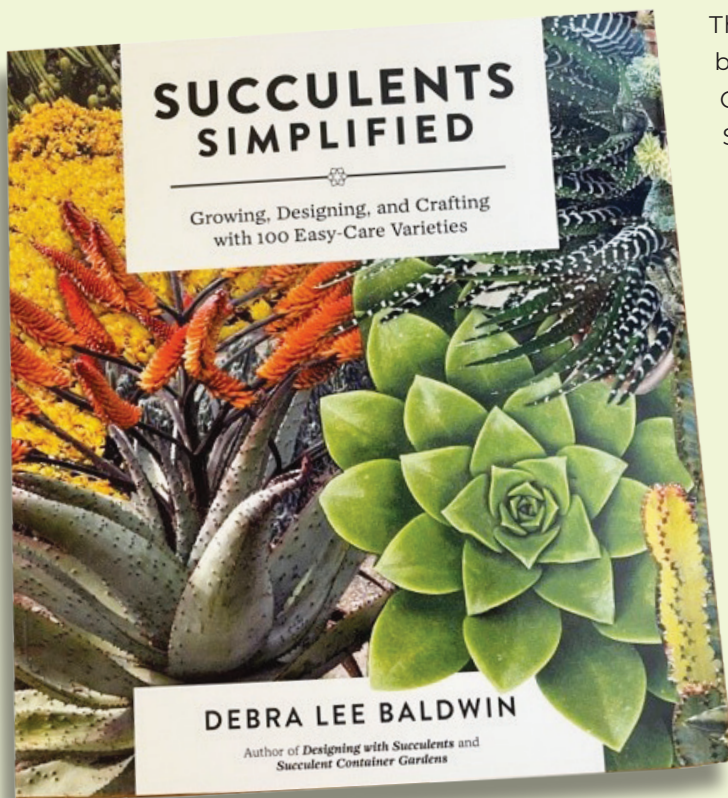
During the private tours, visitors will see the historic winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, the caretaker's houses, swimming pool complex, Edison's study and the Moonlight Garden, and more than 20 acres of botanical gardens. The Garden Tour provides an in-depth exploration of the hundreds of plants and trees on the property. After the tour, visitors may take extra time to stroll the gardens, museum and botanic research laboratory at their own pace.

Cost: Private Guided Tour is \$345, and the Private Garden Tour is \$360.

Book of the Month:

SUCCULENTS SIMPLIFIED: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties

By Debra Lee Baldwin



This month's book of the month will be featured in the September 11 Garden Talk on succulents. Succulents Simplified is a must-have guide for anyone wanting to garden with succulents. The book features the top ten succulents as well as pointers on growing and caring for the plants. A section on crafting with step-by-step instructions is also included.

This book is available in the museum store and members get 10% off each purchase. If you're not in the area, give us a call at 239-334-7419 and we can ship a copy to you.



Emerging Inventors

SEPTEMBER 7 • 9 A.M. (CLASS IS FULL)

Edison and Ford Winter Estates Emerging Inventors programs are designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years old, and include opportunities to socialize with other children, educational activities, science experiments, and exploration of the property. These sessions will take place in our new Wizard's Workshop gallery space, and children will learn how electricity is generated, using kid friendly materials such as conductive clay, how sound works, and so much more. Classes will run from September through May. Includes one adult and one child. ***Space is limited.*** Edison Ford members: \$10; non-members: \$15.



School Break Camp: Fundamental Physics

SEPTEMBER 16 • 9 A.M.

School Break camps are designed for students ages 6 to 12 when school is out. Campers explore Edison's living "living laboratory" while our educators, called "Wild Wizards," teach topics in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), history and the natural world. In this session, students will learn the fundamentals of physics and participate in some unique activities in this entertaining and educational one day camp! Edison Ford members: \$45; non-members: \$50.



Homeschool Science Scholars: Designing Light Systems

GRADES 1-3: SEPTEMBER 8 • 10 A.M.

GRADES 4-6: SEPTEMBER 9 • 10 A.M. (CLASS IS FULL)

Homeschool Science scholar programs are designed for children in grades 1-6 and are typically held in an outdoor classroom environment (weather permitting). Our education staff, called "Wild Wizards" will challenge student's minds and foster collaboration in this science and engineering series. Classes are a combination of instruction and hands-on activities that are designed to facilitate homeschool or virtual science education. In this session, students will learn about how electricity is conducted and build their own simple circuits. Includes one adult and one child. ***Space is limited.*** Edison Ford members: \$10 each or \$60 for a series; non-members: \$15 each or \$95 for a series.

Etiquette Class (ages 6-12) SEPTEMBER 25 • 11 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Mina Edison was a gracious hostess and concerned with the wellbeing of children and the community. Following in her tradition, this two-hour class will teach etiquette and social skills. Students will gather at the Edison Caretaker's House for a lesson in good manners. This class teaches proper introduction, handshakes and dining etiquette during a three-course meal. Each student will receive a workbook and certificate of completion.

Class is taught by Suzanne Willis who teaches etiquette classes at Ritz-Carlton hotels throughout the nation. Willis is a graduate of the Protocol School of Palm Beach and a Fort Myers native. She started the etiquette classes in honor of her grandmother, Florence "Mimi" Black.

Registration is required. Register online today. Designed for children ages 6-12. Cost: Edison Ford members: \$75; non-members: \$85.





GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

Whether you're looking for a gift for someone else or something special for yourself, the Museum Store, Ford Cottage Shoppe and the Edison Ford Shoppe at Edison Mall have lots of unique items! Come see the new home and garden décor items that would be great for brightening up the lanai, like these daisy and Honey Bee solar light lanterns.

We hope to see you soon!

The Edison and Ford Winter Estates is a National Register Historic Site and a Save America's Treasures site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Edison laboratory is a National Historic Chemical Landmark. It is governed by a private, non-profit organization with a Board of Trustees.

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